

COMMISSIONER'S MINORITY HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 13, 2010 – 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Henrico Health Department, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23228

Member Attendees: In Person: Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH; Jane G. Cabarrus; Portia Lynne Cole, PhD, MSW, LCSW; Gary Crum, PhD, MPH; Tonya Davis, MS, MBA; Bre-Onna De Laine; Lucie Ferguson, PhD, MPH, RN; Carl A. Gibson, MD, FACP; Thomas K. Irungu, MD, MPH; Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson, RN, MSN; Tinh duc Phan; Michael A. Pyles, PhD; Michael Royster, MD, MPH; David Simmons, MSN, RN, CNN; and Theresa Teekah, BS, MA, CMPH; Via Polycom: Maria Conley, BSW

Members Absent: Judy Anderson; Tia Campbell, RN, MSN, NCSN; Melissa Canaday; Sandra Cherry, PhD; William L. Lee, DMin; Edward A. Scott, PhD; Claudia M. Tellez, MPH; Hassan Yousuf, MD; and Rudolph Wilson, PhD

Staff Attendance: Karen Reed, MA; b, RN, MPH

1. Welcome

Meeting called to order by Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MHAC Chair.

2. Agenda

The agenda was adopted by MHAC members

3. Minutes

April 13, 2010 minutes were approved as written by MHAC members.

4. Discussion of Health Equity Lens

Susan Triggs facilitated this discussion, using the Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick? documentary as a point of reference. Attendees discussed the first and fifth segments, "In Sickness and In Wealth" and "Place Matters", respectively. Attendees were thoughtfully engaged as they discussed the social determinants of health, health equity, and health in light of policies, systems, and environment.

5. Subcommittee Updates

- **Community Engagement Subcommittee** report was given by Dr. Addo-Ayensu, Chair of the subcommittee. She reported that Dr. Edward Scott has agreed to become Chair of the subcommittee for the next six months, with Dr. Addo-Ayensu serving as Vice-Chair. Subcommittee meeting attendees discussed MAPP engagement and integration with health equity. Dr. Addo-Ayensu gave a general overview of the local public health system framework to MHAC meeting attendees. She reported that the subcommittee agreed that talking points should be developed in order to make sure everyone speaks from the same perspective regarding health equity and the social determinants of health. The following five talking points were developed for linking health equity with MAPP.

1. The MAPP process can increase community awareness and understanding of the impacts of social determinants on health outcomes.
2. MAPP provides a strategic framework to formulate goals and strategies that address the root causes of health inequities.
3. The Coalition (see Local Public Health System "egg slide") embodies the organizations, entities, and individuals who together can create social and physical environments that promote good health for all.
4. Coalition stakeholder resources and assets can be leveraged to address the unequal distribution of SDOH, and work towards greater health equity in our communities.

5. Local health districts and MHAC can develop community engagement initiatives with stakeholders that allow for continued discussion and consensus building for real solutions – linking issues to prevention of health problems – helping Coalition stakeholders prioritize the best starting place.

The subcommittee also discussed the time commitment required and determined that the entire MHAC commitment should be about 1 to 2 hours monthly, more or less depending on the needs of a particular month.

As a follow-up to the 2009 Virginia Health Equity Conference, the Community Engagement Subcommittee has agreed to become involved in the planning of the Health Equity Webinar regarding the integration of health equity into the MAPP process. Theresa Teekah volunteered to participate with the OMHPHP in this process.

- **Policy/Legislative Subcommittee** report was given by Lucie Ferguson because of the absence of the Chair, Claudia Tellez. Attendees decided to move forward with the recommendations from last year regarding making the OMHPHP and MHAC part of the Code of Virginia. The group also intends to make recommendations regarding Childhood Obesity and Healthcare Reform. She reported that members need to take more active role in getting health policy changes. The precedent was set when the National Office of Minority Health was institutionalized within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as the National Institute of Minority Health.

Dr. Ferguson also reported that for the next six months Claudia Tellez has agreed to remain Chair, and Maria Conley will be Vice-Chair.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation that the OMHHE and MHHEAC be made part of the Code of Virginia be moved forward. These will be sent to the Commissioner with last year's language.

6. OMHPHP Updates

Dr. Royster provided an overview of office projects.

The next Health Equity Report will be released in April 2011. The report format is being changed and it will include a "Health Opportunity Index" and serve as a tool that evaluates global health outcomes and how they are related to the social determinants of health.

The office is involved in planning a Health Equity Webinar Series training (follow-up action from 2009 Virginia Health Equity Conference.) The first training in the series was on Health Impact Assessment. In September 2010, a webinar training will be held on the "Isms" and will discuss racism, classism, and sexism. Future webinar trainings will include:

- Integrating health equity into MAPP
- Using community-based participatory approaches to combat obesity and infant mortality

Dr. Royster also discussed the HRSA healthcare Workforce grants that offers monies for 1 year of planning or 2 years of implementation. The office is also collaborating with several organizations to submit a REACH CORE grant proposal on July 21, 2010.

Lastly, he reported on the two-day Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) planning meeting he attended. ASTHO has identified health equity as a crosscutting issue and will focus on building the capacity of state health departments across the country to promote health equity.

Karen Reed reported on the activities of the Division of Health Equity that center around addressing areas of health inequity in Virginia, and the social determinants of health. The Northern Virginia Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is hosting a five-part webinar series on culturally and linguistically appropriate communication. The series is broadcast live via Polycom on **July 28, August 4, August 11, August 18, and August 25**. Specific Webinar topics include:

- Health Literacy
- Building a Linguistically and Culturally Competent Workforce
- Cultural Competency in Health Care
- Interpreting in Health and Community Settings
- Health Care in Cross Cultural Perspective

The series will be offered at VDH sites via polycom and through the internet to the general public. For additional information, visit the Northern Virginia AHEC website at <http://nvahec.org/trainingandeducation>

- The Navigating the Healthcare System for Immigrant and Migrant Populations will be piloted in Northern Virginia at the Fairfax Health Department on July 21, 2010.

7. Statement of Commissioner

- **Discussion of OMHPHP name and reporting structure changes**

Dr. Remley provided information on the basis for considering changes to the Office name, Office of Minority Health and Public Health Policy and the reporting structure of the OMHPHP (which currently reports directly to the Commissioner). She reviewed the definition of health equity with the group as “achieving the highest level of health for all people – that it entails focused societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities by equalizing the conditions for health for all groups, especially for those who have experienced socioeconomic disadvantage or historical injustices”. Dr. Remley told the group that her goal is to broaden the reach of the office by focusing on health equity for everyone.

Dr. Remley informed the group that a new Chief Deputy of Public Health will be coming on board with the Virginia Department of Health in November and that she was considering moving OMHPHP from directly reporting to the Commissioner to instead report to the new Chief Deputy of Public Health.

Dr. Remley explained that the purpose of this move would be to develop opportunities for other offices throughout VDH to know what the OMHPHP does in terms of health equity and understand the need to integrate this core thinking model into their strategic planning. It would also be an opportunity to integrate funding sources across offices in order to promote health equity.

Dr. Remley explained that she had spoken with the Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources about changing the name and reporting structure of the office. She then requested input from MHAC on changing the name of the Office of Minority Health and Public Health Policy to the Office of Health Equity and their thoughts on changing the reporting structure.

- Comments supporting the changes included the following:
 - The name change may help VDH offices better understand what health equity is and what the office represents.
 - Health equity reflects the positive and the goal of our work.

- The term minority is losing meaning as Virginia and the U.S. become increasingly diverse
- Concerns regarding the changes included.
 - There is a long history of minority health struggles, and as a result, emotional attachment to that term.
 - Although some recognize the meaning of the name “Office of Health Equity,” to many others it will appear to dilute the importance of minority health.
 - There may be political perceptions of why the name was changed
 - Changing the reporting structure from reporting to the Commissioner to reporting to the Chief Deputy may be perceived as lowering the importance of minority health

Considering the valuable feedback from the MHAC members, Dr. Remley suggested the name ***Office of Minority Health and Health Equity (OMHHE)*** as that name would address many of the concerns expressed by the members as well as reflect the direction of the Office’s goals. MHAC supported that suggestion.

Considering the organizational structure change, Dr. Remley indicated that Dr. Royster will continue to report directly to her until November. At that time, she and Dr. Royster will meet with the new Chief Deputy to make her aware of the agency’s commitment to health equity. Based on those activities, she will follow up with MHAC membership at the January 2011 MHAC meeting,

- **Discussion of Name Change for MHAC**

Following the discussion of the name change for the OMHPHP Dr. Remley offered the committee an option to change their name as well to reflect the new name of the OMHPHP, Office of Minority Health and Health Equity. After a brief discussion members agreed by consensus that they would like to change the name of the Minority Health Advisory Committee to reflect the new name. The new name will be the **Minority Health and Health Equity Advisory Committee (MHHEAC)**.

- **Discussion of name change for the Division of Health Equity**

With the name change to OMHHE, there will be a need for a name change for the Division of Health Equity. Ms. Reed informed the group that she had received feedback from within the office and the preferred name the “Division of Multicultural Health and Community Engagement”. Ms. Reed explained that the functions of the division and the name aligned. . MHAC members had no name suggestions, but indicated that as long as the Office leadership was in agreement whatever name selected would be fine.

- **Awards Presentations to Retiring MHAC Members**

Dr. Remley reflected on the changes at VDH, and the valuable contributions of the five MHAC members that were completing their terms of service. Dr. Remley presented members with a Certificates of Appreciation and brief tribute for their many years of service on MHAC.

The following members received awards:

- **Jane Cabarrus**
Appointed from 1993 – 2010 as an Eastern Shore community representative. Served on the Community Engagement Subcommittee. Is a current member of the NAACP Virginia State Conference Executive Committee, Chair of the Coalition for a Smoke-Free Shore, Liaison Coordinator for Outreach Services for the Sickle Cell Association, Inc., and President of the Eastern Virginia Coalition on Cancer Education and Preventive Health Awareness for the National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer.
- **Michael Pyles, PhD**
Appointed from 1991 – 2010 and is a founding member of MHAC. He is an Assistant Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. He has served on MHAC through the tenures of five Health Commissioners and was MHAC Co-Chair for over a decade. He helped conduct nine town-hall meetings around the Commonwealth. He was a member of the Policy/Legislative Subcommittee. Dr. Pyles also participated in the development of Virginia's first and second Minority health Conferences and helped develop the "Minority Health Fact Sheet". He was part of Virginia's first summit on public and private partnerships to increase access to quality health care for poor and uninsured Virginians. He is currently President of the Board of Directors of Days of Grace Senior Services, Inc. (first licensed adult day care program in Virginia) and has served in leadership capacities with the Virginia Cancer Plan Action Coalition.
- **David Simmons, MSN, RN, CNN**
Appointed from 1995 – 2010. He is the Clinical Director of the University of Virginia Health System Nephrology Outpatient Clinic. He is also a nursing instructor for the University Of Virginia School Of Nursing. He served as MHAC Chair from 2008 – 2009 and was a member of the Community Engagement Subcommittee. David Simmons was also the MHAC Liaison to the Pandemic Influenza Emergency Response and Preparedness Advisory Committee. His community activities include: Service as Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church health ministry leader, Chair of Charlottesville Police Chief Advisory Panel; President of the Interfraternal Council of Charlottesville; Board member of the Quality Community Council; Virginia Nurses Association, Continuing Education Approval Committee, and National Black Nurses Association.

Dr. Remley acknowledged the contributions of the following members who were unable to attend:

- **Judy Anderson**
Appointed from 2006 – 2010. Executive Director of the Sickle Cell Association, Inc. Ms. Anderson has served on the MHAC Community Engagement Subcommittee and supported health equity initiatives in her community.
- **Rudy Wilson, PhD**
Appointed from 1995 – 2010. Assistant Professor at Norfolk State University, Department of Political Science & Economics. Dr. Wilson served as past MHAC Vice-Chair and MHAC Liaison to the Pandemic Influenza Emergency Response and Preparedness Advisory Committee. He was also a member of the Policy/Legislative Subcommittee.

8. Strategic Planning

To plan for MHAC activities, the Chair advised that the Committee would continue with a Strategic Planning process at the next scheduled MHAC meeting on October 12, 2010 meeting. The session will allow for greater input and move

9. Announcements

Lucie Ferguson provided group members with information about an upcoming healthcare reform via US Families

10. Public Comment

Tracy Jarrett, Life Net Health, commented on the importance of keeping the word, "minority" in the office name and the name for MHAC.

10. Meeting Adjourned at 2pm.

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The NEXT MHAC MEETING is scheduled for:

Date: October 12, 2010 **Time:** 11:00 am-2:00 pm

Location – Henrico Health Department,
8600 Dixon Powers Drive,
2nd Floor,
Richmond, Virginia 23228

Future MHAC Meeting Dates - 2010

December 14, 2010

Time: 11:00 am-2:00 pm

Questions or special needs – please contact: Susan Triggs, Health Equity Specialist – 804-864-7429 – susan.triggs@vdh.virginia.gov

Minutes prepared by: Susan Triggs, MPH, RN

Minutes reviewed by: Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH